



## Making Tracks

**Editor:** Holly Berthold, *Metro Media Specialist*  
**Layout:** Rene Parker, *Administrative Staff Assistant*

# 10th Annual Eagle Days



Join us at the 10th Annual Eagle Days at the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge on Saturday and Sunday, January 15 & 16, 2005 from 8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

An eagle education program is repeated every 30 minutes from 10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m. and viewing scopes on the bridge permit close-ups of eagles.

Be sure and stop by the Lewis & Clark re-enactors who will have a camp set up reminiscent of the 1804 - 1806 Corps of Discovery Expedition. Warming tents, concessionaires, free parking on the Missouri side parking lots (look for the signs) and interactive displays help make this event fun (and warm) for all! Bundle up and bring your binoculars. The event is free of charge.

For more information on Eagle Days, visit [www.confluencegreenway.org](http://www.confluencegreenway.org)



**Making Tracks**  
Missouri Department of Conservation  
2360 Hwy D  
St. Charles, MO 63304  
[www.mdc.mo.gov](http://www.mdc.mo.gov)

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# Making Tracks

## St. Louis Regional Calendar of Events

January 2005      Volume 05, Number 01



## Wildlife Tracks

By Kurt Otterstein  
*Outdoor Skills Specialist, St. Louis*



The term ‘wildlife tracks’ takes on different meanings depending on who is giving the definition. Some might think of it as identifying tracks of animals while others respond that it is how you track an animal after delivering a fatal shot while hunting. I thought of these two answers first because I enjoy identifying wildlife tracks while out in the woods, and I use animal tracking, which is essential for every hunter. However, after thinking about it, ‘wildlife tracks’ to me represent those fond memories of time spent with family and friends while pursuing game, whether it was while fishing or hunting.

We all have these memories, or ‘tracks,’ in our minds. Some might be from your childhood or the first time you went fishing or hunting. Some of the tracks left behind are memories that at the time were not so pleasant, but now you can look back on them and laugh at yourself. Here are two of my wildlife tracks.

Fishing has always been (and still is) first on my dad’s list of hobbies. I can remember the countless hours he spent with me teaching me how to cast spin-casting and baitcasting reels in the front yard. Neighbors would drive by and laugh, and some would even yell questions like, “Have you caught anything?” or “How’s the fishing?” Those casting practices have led to numerous tracks in my mind that range from walking a small Missouri stream to fishing in Canada. A not-so-enjoyable moment happened about five years ago. While fishing in Canada, I buried a size 2/0 hook in my finger. At the time, obviously, this was not one of those enjoyable tracks; however, looking back on it I still can hear my dad and his friend giving me words of “encouragement” and laughing, saying, “You just got to RIP it out!” Not exactly the words you want to hear when you are preparing to pull a hook out of your finger with a pair of pliers!

Another one of my wildlife tracks was from a spring turkey-hunting trip. Turkey hunting has always been one of my outdoor passions and I wanted to share it with my then fiancée, Jill. As expected, we got up early, approached the roosting area of the gobblers and set up to call one in. I had Jill sit on one side of the tree and I sat on the other side so we were looking in opposite directions. As the sun rose, the sounds of spring yelps and gobbles filled the air. I was calling and listening to some of the birds respond. As the time approached for one of the birds to show, I heard something that didn’t belong in the woods. It appeared to be coming from the area near Jill. There we were at the prime of the hunt, and Jill had decided to take a nap and was snoring!

I have countless wildlife tracks in my mind that span over 35 years of enjoying the outdoors with family and friends. If you have some wildlife tracks of your own and want to share them, please send them to me via e-mail at [kurt.otterstein@mdc.mo.gov](mailto:kurt.otterstein@mdc.mo.gov) or by mail to Kurt Otterstein, Busch Conservation Area, Hwy. D, St. Charles, MO, 63304.



**2360 Hwy D, St. Charles, MO 63304 Office hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.**  
For reservations call (636) 441-4554 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From Hwy 40 take Hwy 94 south to Hwy D; turn west on Hwy D for approximately 3 miles. The area entrance is on the north side of Hwy D. Visit [www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/buschca/](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/buschca/)

5

Conservation Jeopardy

Wednesday1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

(Ages 10-16) Do you know which Missouri mammal bears identical quadruplets? Test your trivia skills with questions like this in a fun game of Conservation Jeopardy. Prizes will be awarded to winning teams. *Naturalist: Shanna Raeker.* (Reservations begin December 20.)

6

Camo Camp

Thursday10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 7-12) How much do you know about camouflage? Do you know enough to survive Camo Camp? Join our basic training course to learn how animals use camouflage to survive. *Naturalist: Shanna Raeker.* (Reservations begin December 20.)

8

Dresser Island Hike

Saturday9 a.m. – 3 p.m.

(Adults) Where is there a place in winter that you can hike along a big river and see pelicans, ducks, geese, trumpeter swans, eagles, hawks, gulls, turkey, deer and many smaller birds? It’s called Dresser Island and it is located near West Alton in St. Charles County. Join us for a 6 ½-mile hike as we look for wildlife along the Mississippi River and enjoy the winter scenery that our big rivers offer so near to St. Louis. *Naturalist: Marvin Staloch.* (Reservations begin December 27.)



10

Come Soar with Us!

Monday9:30 a.m. – 10:30 a.m. & 11 a.m. – Noon

(Ages 3-6) The eagle represents freedom. Living on the tops of lofty mountains, amid the solitary majesty of nature, they have unlimited freedom. The bald eagle was chosen as the emblem of the United States of America because of its long life, great strength and imposing looks. The bald eagle’s appearance is so powerful and compelling to children. They can appreciate how majestic it looks soaring and flying free in the sky. Are bald eagles bald? How big are their nests? Discover the answers to these questions and many more as we soar with the eagles. Come and have fun with eagle-themed activities and crafts suitable for your young ones. *Naturalists: Kathy Hellmann & Penny Elder.* (Reservations begin December 27.)



21

Owl Prowl

Friday7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

(All Ages) Whooo is calling in the woods? Join us for an introduction to Missouri’s resident owls and winter visitors. Then take a stroll on the Fallen Oak Trail to listen and, hopefully, call in some owls close to us. Warm clothing is necessary for the walk portion of this program. *Naturalist: Mary Cunningham.* (Reservations begin January 7.)

Busch Shooting Range & Outdoor Education Center

2360 Hwy D  
St. Charles, MO 63304  
(636) 300-1953 ext. 251  
[www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/busch](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/busch)

**PUBLIC RANGE HOURS**  
**May 1 through September 30**  
Friday through Monday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
Tuesday 2 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
**October 1 through April 30**  
Friday through Tuesday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

These hours are subject to change.  
Please call the range for updated hours.

**CLOSED DAYS**  
Wednesday and Thursday  
All State Holidays

**RANGE FEES**  
Rifle/Pistol Range: \$3 per hour/per booth  
Trap/Skeet Fields: \$3 per round/per person  
Shotgun Patterning Range: \$2 per person for every set of three turkey targets  
Special Use Permits: Please call to inquire.  
**Note:** Peak usage: 1 hour maximum per permit.  
Eye and ear protection is required on all ranges.

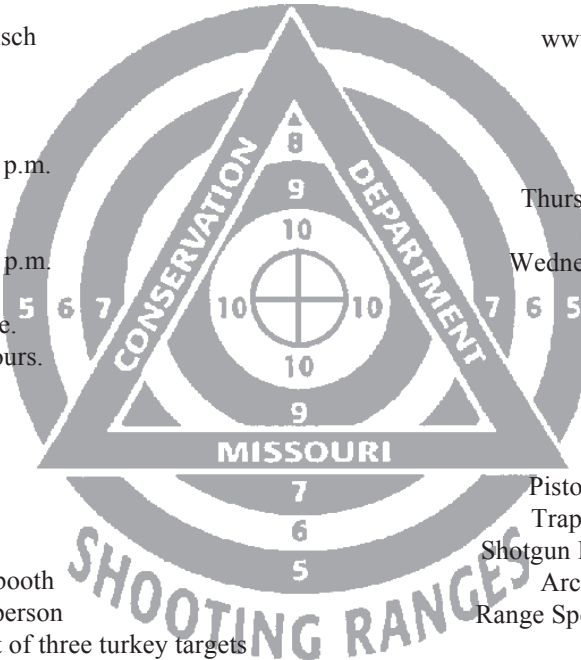
Jay Henges Shooting Range & Outdoor Education Center

1100 Antire Road  
High Ridge, MO 63049  
(636) 938-9548  
[www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/henges](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges/henges)

**PUBLIC RANGE HOURS**  
**May 1 through August 31**  
Wednesday 2 p.m. – 8 p.m.  
Thursday through Sunday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.  
**September 1 through April 30**  
Wednesday through Sunday 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

**CLOSED DAYS**  
Monday and Tuesday  
All State Holidays

**RANGE FEES**  
Pistol/Rifle Range: \$3 per hour/per booth  
Trap Range: \$3 per 25 targets/per person  
Shotgun Patterning Range: \$2 per hour/per person  
Archery Range: \$3 per hour/per person  
Range Special Use Permit: \$20 per hour/per permit  
Building Use Permit: Inquire  
**NOTE:** Peak usage: 1 hour maximum per permit  
Trap Ranges: No shot size larger than 7 ½  
Pistol/Rifle Range: No center fire ammunition large than .50 caliber  
Ear & eye protection is required on all ranges.



Throughout January, enjoy outdoor shooting sports at our ranges.  
Archery \*Rifle/Pistol\* Shotgun Patterning\* Trap/Skeet  
  
Ranges are closed on state holidays and for special events.  
For program information, check our website: [www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/ranges)



2751 Glencoe Road, Wildwood, MO 63038 Office hours are Monday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For reservations call (636) 458-2236 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 take Hwy 109 north 4 miles to Woods Avenue; left on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. From Manchester Road take Hwy 109 south 2 miles to Woods Avenue; right on Woods Avenue, and then immediately right on Glencoe Road. Visit [www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/stlouis/)

6

Winter Hike

Thursday

10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

(All Ages) Come out of hibernation and join us for a winter hike. Winter is a great time of year to see the beauty of Rockwoods’ trails. We will look for wildlife and identify trees by their bark. Homeschoolers welcome. *Naturalist: Robin Gavlick.* (Reservations begin December 20.)

22

The Unnatural Effects of Human Impact

Saturday

1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

(Ages 12 & up) Many natural and unnatural changes have happened at Rockwoods since the early European settlers found this remote spot we now call Rockwoods Reservation. Join us as we explore the trails of Rockwoods looking for signs of change, and learn how human presence has influenced the land and wildlife in the area. *Naturalist: John Ruprecht.* (Reservations begin January 10.)

28

Owl Prowl

Friday

7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

(All Ages) Do you know how many types of owls live in Missouri? Do you know what features owls have that make them excellent hunters? Come on out to Rockwoods to discover the answers to these questions and many more. Dress for the weather as the program will include a hike into our winter wonderland. *Naturalist: Sally Roberts.* (Reservations begin January 14.)



February is  
Maple Sugar Month

*Sweeten Up Your Day  
With Sugary Magic*

Looking for something to cure your winter blues? Feel like you can’t stay inside one more day? Well grab your coats and hats and head out to Rockwoods Reservation in February for our season of maple sugaring. You will get the chance to participate in one of nature’s most amazing gifts. Learn an old Missouri tradition and join us as we tap maple trees, collect the sap and turn it into a mouth-watering treat! Make sure to look in February’s edition of *Making Tracks* for dates and times. It is sure to sweeten up your day!



801 Strodtman Rd., St. Louis, MO 63138 Office hours are Wednesday – Friday from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. Saturday – Sunday from 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.

For reservations call (314) 877-6014 Wednesday through Sunday 8 a.m. – 4 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-270 north take the Riverview Drive exit (last Missouri exit); go north approximately 2.8 miles. Riverview Drive becomes Columbia Bottom Road at its intersection with Larimore Road. The entrance is on the right-hand side. Visit [www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/areas/bottom/](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/areas/bottom/)

5

Retiree River Ramble

Wednesday

9 a.m. – Noon

(Ages 60 & up) Calling all folks over 60! Enjoy a leisurely hike with other seniors on the 3-mile River’s Edge Trail. This hike is specifically for folks over age 60 and will be at a pace suited to this age group. This month we will be watching for wildlife along the Missouri River. January is the month beaver begin breeding and they should be active. Bald eagles and waterfowl, such as mergansers, should also be present on the river. We will also be looking for signs that beaver, deer and rabbits have been active along the trail. PLEASE NOTE: THIS PROGRAM HAS BEEN CHANGED TO WEDNESDAYS. *Naturalist: David Petree.* (Reservations begin December 22.)

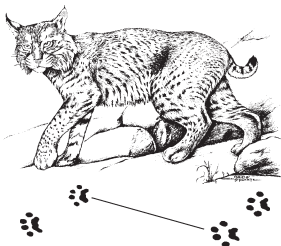
19

Animal Autographs

Wednesday

10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. &  
3 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

(Ages 3-6) How can you tell which animals live at Columbia Bottom? Join us as we go investigating outdoors for animal tracks! Preschoolers will become scientists as they hunt for tracks, identify animals and make a field guide. We will also create an art project, read a story and have other fun activities as part of our animal-tracking adventure. *Naturalist: Lisa Reid.* (Reservations begin January 5.)



28

Winter Walk in the Woods

Friday

10 a.m. – Noon

(Ages 7-12) Let’s take a walk in the woods this winter when all the trees seem to be asleep. What is going on inside the trees while they rest? How can we even know which trees are there without seeing their leaves? Discover how to identify trees by twigs, bark and other features. For those who made “Tree Logs” in October, please bring them with you. *Naturalist: Pat Behle.* (Reservations begin January 14.)

28

Owl Prowl

Friday

6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.,  
7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. &  
8 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.

(All Ages & Scouts) Whooo is calling in the night? Join us as we learn about the owls that call Missouri home. Discover how they are able to fly and hunt at night. Young children can sit and listen to the story “Owl Moon.” Take a guided stroll to listen for and, hopefully, call some owls in close. Warm clothing is a must for the walk portion of this program. *Naturalist: Rhonda Anderson.* (Reservations begin January 14.)

15&16

Eagle Viewing

Saturday

8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

Sunday

8 a.m. – 3 p.m.

(All Ages & Scouts) After you have visited the Old Chain of Rocks Bridge for Eagle Days, head up river a short way and discover the eagles at Columbia Bottom. We will have spotting scopes set up at the boat ramp so you can get a close look at the eagles hanging out along the Missouri River. While you are here, visit the confluence viewing platform and take a look at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi rivers. (No reservations necessary.)



22

Owl Pellets:  
Food for Thought

Saturday

10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

(Ages 7-12) Begin your investigation of owls from the inside out! Dissect an owl pellet to discover what is inside. What do owls eat? Where on the food chain do they fit? How do owls benefit our environment? You might be amazed at what you find! *Naturalist: Kathy Schroeder.* (Reservations begin January 7.)

11715 Cragwold Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122 Nature Center hours are daily from 8 a.m. – 5 p.m.

For reservations call (314) 301-1500 Monday through Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. If you are unable to attend a program, please call and cancel as a courtesy to those on our waiting list. Interpretive services are available for those with hearing loss with 5 days notice. From I-44 east in Kirkwood, take Watson Road, exit and turn north on Geyer Road. Follow Geyer Road 200 yards to Cragwold Road. Go 1 mile west on Cragwold Road. Visit [www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/powder/](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/areas/cnc/powder/)

3 Hiking at Powder Valley:  
Hickory Ridge Trail

Monday 1 p.m. – 2:30p.m.  
(Adults) Enjoy Powder Valley in January and experience nature in winter. *Naturalist: Tom O’Gorman.* (Reservations begin December 20.)

8 "Thunderbird":  
The Legends of the Bald Eagle

Saturday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. &  
1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
(Ages 7 & up) Learn through storytelling, crafts and discovery table the legend of “Thunderbird,” the American bald eagle. *Naturalists: Bill & Sharon Woodford.* (Reservations begin December 23.)

15 Ice Is Nice

Saturday 10 a.m. – Noon  
(Ages 7–12) Ice is nice. Or is it? We’ll explore the pros and cons of ice from a wildlife point of view. Dress for the weather. *Interpretive Programs Supervisor: Janice Starke.* (Reservations begin December 30.)

20 Exploring Ecology

Thursday 7 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
(All Ages) Explore ecological wonders through crafts, games and activities. *Naturalist: Pat Steudeman.* (Reservations begin January 6.)

22 Let’s Get Squirrely

Saturday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
(All Ages) Squirrels are jumping, climbing and chattering in the trees. Learn about squirrels and what they are doing during the cold winter months. Dress for the weather. *Naturalist: Catherine McGrane.* (Reservations begin January 8.)



22 The Scoop on Poop

Saturday 1 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.  
(All Ages) What’s a four letter word that begins with “s,” ends with “t” and won’t offend anyone if you say it? That’s right, scat! Get the scoop on poop. Dress for the weather. *Naturalist: Colleen Scott.* (Reservations begin January 8.)

24 Hiking at Powder Valley:  
Broken Ridge Trail

Monday 1 p.m. – 2 :30 p.m.  
(Adults) Enjoy nature while also getting needed exercise. *Naturalist: Tom O’Gorman.* (Reservations begin January 10.)

26 Tracking for Tots

Wednesday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
(Ages 3-6) Track winter wildlife signs through story, song and craft. Take a short walk to see what we might discover. Dress for the weather. *Naturalist: Colleen Scott.* (Reservations begin January 12.)

26 HOMESCHOOL  
What’s Up In Winter?

Wednesday 10 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.  
(Ages 7-12) Learn how some plants and animals survive the cold winter months by actively seeking food and shelter. Observe the winter forest firsthand, so dress for the weather. *Naturalist: Catherine McGrane.* (Reservations begin January 12.)

29 Winter Camera Walk

Saturday 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.  
(Ages 15 & up) Enjoy a winter walk with a camera through Powder Valley’s oak-hickory forest. Participants will take photos of the winter landscape and forest forms as seen through the viewfinder. Bring your own camera, film or digital memory cards and tripods. *Naturalist: David Bradford.* (Reservations begin January 14.)



Field Trip Fan Mail

The fan mail students send us after attending programs at Powder Valley are so much fun, we want to share them with everyone. Their artwork and comments will be on display during the month of January. Visit our hallway exhibit and start off the new year on a fun note!



Marjorie Yamada

Marjorie Yamada died on October 6, 2004. Marjorie was a Volunteer Naturalist for the Missouri Department of Conservation, in the volunteer class of 1997, at Powder Valley Conservation Nature Center. Marjorie was a well-known and loved educator of children and adults, having lead and assisted with nature-related programs for people of all ages. Her friendship and her commitment to conservation education will be greatly missed.

NATURE CENTER “FACELIFT”  
OPEN HOUSE

Saturday, January 29  
10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

Powder Valley has undergone a “facelift”! We’ve replaced, repaired, repainted, reupholstered, recarpeted. Now it’s time to “recover”! Help us celebrate the nature center’s makeover with tours, scavenger hunts, prizes, refreshments and more. No reservations are necessary.

Call (314) 301-1500 for more information.

Second Annual  
Student Nature Art Show  
Coming in April



The entries in our first Annual Student Art Show were so good that we’re doing it again! Art teachers – we invite you to select and submit your students’ best artwork for possible showing in our Second Annual Student Nature Art Show in April. Artwork must relate to Missouri flora and fauna. We must receive it by March 14, 2005. Appropriate work will then be selected for showing. Prizes will be awarded in several categories.

Please contact Powder Valley at (314) 301-1500 for an information packet and entry forms.

*This show is open to classroom art teachers and their students, only.*

Powder Valley Volunteer Milestones

Bob Anderson.....	2800 hours	Priscilla Jenkins.....	700 hours
Rose Evans.....	300 hours	Bill Maass.....	3400 hours
Shirley Fitzgibbons.....	1000 hours	Jack McGinnis.....	4300 hours
Karen Goellner.....	2100 hours	Frank Sadorf.....	1300 hours